



Please see photograph on page 2.

## Virginia Juvenile Justice Association

*Celebrating 40 years of advocating for court-involved children and the professionals who touch their lives.*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HAMPTON CSU and HAMPTON JDAI TEAM TAKE HOME COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

On November 2, 2006, employees of Hampton's Court Service Unit and members of Hampton's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Team were honored for service to their community. While attending the 30<sup>th</sup> Fall Juvenile Justice Training Institute, in a ceremony before more than 400 juvenile justice professionals and policy makers from across the state, members were presented the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association's *2006 Meritorious Award in the Area of Community Service*.

Traditionally the award is presented to an individual or group that has come together to perform a community service work project. The Hampton group broke that mold. The group has not performed a sole community service work project, but rather has worked effectively together for the greater good of their community. Collaborating partners include members of the judiciary, court service unit, defense bar, office of the commonwealth attorney, office of the city manager, department of social services, local school division, and secure detention facility. As a group they have come together to build consensus around the use of secure detention and allocation of resources in their jurisdiction. The group has benefited from strong leadership from the judiciary, court service unit and department of social services. Among the group's accomplishments is saving their community more than half a million dollars by improving case processing and identifying cost-effective alternatives to secure detention.

Hampton is one of eight localities throughout Virginia who have linked to the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) spearheaded and supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropic organization focused on improving the lives and communities of disadvantaged children in the United States. VJJA President Beth Stinnett, who also serves as State Coordinator for Virginia's JDAI efforts, said, "I was delighted when I learned the Hampton JDAI Team would receive the award. The Hampton community has long had a reputation for effective, cross-agency collaboration and the children in their community are the beneficiaries. By responsibly using state resources and when possible keeping children in the community with their families, they have performed the ultimate service to their community."

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About VJJA: Founded in 1966, the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) is an organization comprised of professionals representing court services, the judiciary, indigent defense, detention homes, juvenile correctional facilities, halfway houses, group homes, mental health, education, law enforcement, social work, and others with an interest in youth and family services. The organization is administered by an elected board of directors and is committed to child advocacy and advancing the professional interests and competencies of its members. State and local training events are held, with a statewide conference held annually in November. Learn more at [www.VJJA.org](http://www.VJJA.org).

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**Part of the Hampton JDAI Team**

Carl Linden, Intake Supervisor  
Wanda Rogers, Director of Social Services  
John Matish, JDAI Coordinator  
Judge Nelson Durden